

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
ADVOCACY & AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

IAC Conference Room  
150 W. Market Street suite 618  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
February 26, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

Minutes

Members present: None.

Members via teleconference: Jeanne Mirro, Irene Smith-King, A John Rose, JoEllen Florio Rossebo, Lynn Jakubowski, Pam Hicks, Dick Stifel, Gilberto Cárdenas, Kelly Schreckengast, John DePrez, Sally Gaskill.

Members absent: John Cain, Miah Michaelson

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin

IAC staff via teleconference: Lewis Ricci

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Ms. Mirro called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and asked IAC Executive Assistant Dennis Hardin to call the roll.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Mr. DePrez moved to accept the consent agenda; Mr. Rose seconded. Motion passed.

3. **Legislative Update.**

a. State Budget. Mr. Ricci reported that the state budget has passed through the House of Representatives. It includes an 8% budget reduction for the Arts Commission, similar to reductions for most other state agencies. He thanked commissioners and advocates for their contributions to the effort of meeting with legislators in the budget process. He also thanked IAC staff members Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank and April Blevins for their work in assembling a package of information relating to the reach of the IAC budget across the state, which was provided to legislators in their budget negotiations. The state budget has now gone to the Indiana Senate.

b. NEA Budget. Mr. Ricci reported that the National Endowment for the Arts will receive \$50 million as part of the federal economic stimulus package recently signed into law by President Obama. By law, 40% of this money will be granted to state arts agencies. Indiana is expecting to receive approximately \$250,000 from the stimulus package, but no timetable for the receipt of these funds has been established. It is also unknown if there will be "strings" attached relating to the expenditure of the funds, or the time period in which the funds are to be spent. This information is expected within the next few weeks. It is not known if additional funding from the NEA will affect the state budget. The regular biennial grant from NEA should remain

unaffected, and will go into effect at the start of the federal fiscal year on October 1, 2009. Ms. Mirro thanked Mr. Ricci and other IAC staff for their efforts in keeping the commission and other committee members informed about these matters on a weekly basis.

c. National Arts Advocacy Day. Mr. Ricci reported that, despite a general freeze on out-of-state travel for state employees, an exception was granted to the Arts Commission to allow his attendance at national Arts Advocacy Day activities in Washington, D.C. on March 30 – 31, 2009. He will be joining other arts advocates from Indiana in a series of meetings with the offices of Indiana Senators and Representatives regarding arts funding.

#### **4. State Arts Advocates Update.**

a. Legislative Update. Ms. Gaskill (Indiana Coalition for the Arts) reported that the campaign of personal contacts with legislatures was very effective in the state budget process as it passed through the Indiana House of Representatives. She also noted that the grass-roots campaign was also very effective, and recounted the numbers of emails which had been sent by private citizens to their district legislators.

b. Arts Day at the Statehouse. Ms. Gaskill is hopeful of a strong turnout by arts advocates at Advocacy Day at the Statehouse on March 12, 2009. She also remarked on certain advocacy awards to be presented that day.

#### **5. Governor's Arts Awards.**

a. Mr. Ricci reported that, despite the economic crisis, the Governor is still committed to presenting the Governor's Arts Awards on September 25, 2009. Mr. Van Zant reported that 63 nominations have been received for the awards this year, including 29 nominees automatically brought forward from 2007.

b. Mr. Van Zant reported that the process is fully underway to select the Indiana artist who will create the award.

c. The program planning committee in Muncie is meeting regularly and is on schedule for the September program. Mr. Van Zant reported that IAC may be able to bring a summer intern on board to assist with the GAA. Ms. Mirro encouraged everyone to consider sponsoring a table at the awards dinner.

#### **6. New business.** There was no new business.

7. **Old Business.** Ms. Mirro asked about the status of the "Imagine That!" publicity campaign. Mr. Ricci replied that funds which had been earmarked for the campaign had to be diverted to cover other expenses due to the budget cuts, but that the campaign has not been abandoned. Ms. Smith-King asked if funds from the federal stimulus package could be used to support the publicity campaign; Mr. Ricci replied that it is not known yet if such use would be allowable.

8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Mirro again thanked everyone for their participation in light of the economic downturn. The next meeting of the Advocacy & Awareness Committee will be May 28, 2009. Ms. Hicks moved for adjournment; Ms. Smith-King seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.